

Samples of NeSA-Writing Prompts

Grade 4

2009: Suddenly, you have time to take a break from your normal day and do what you want to do!

Think about how you would spend your day.

Write a story about what you would do on that day so the reader can enjoy the day with you.

2008: Summer is a time when you can do things you may not be able to do at other times of the year.

Think about something you did during the summer that you remember well. It could be something you did with a friend, with your family, or by yourself. What happened?

Write a story about this summertime memory. Use details so that anyone who reads your story will know what happened.

2007: Helping others is important. Think about a time when you helped someone.

It could be a time when you helped a friend, a teacher, a neighbor, someone in your family, or even someone you didn't know very well. What happened?

Write a story using details so that anyone who reads it will understand what happened when you helped this person.

Grade 8

2009: Think about a place you go to have fun.

What sights, sounds, smells, tastes, textures, or feelings come to mind as you think about this place?

Write an essay describing this place so the reader can experience it with as many senses as possible and understand why this place is special to you.

2008: Almost everyone has a favorite time or season of the year. It could be a season such as winter or summer, a sports season, or a holiday season. What is your favorite season?

Think about the descriptive characteristics such as sights, sounds, or smells that might occur during this season.

Write an essay describing your favorite time or season of the year using details so that anyone reading your essay would be able to picture it and understand why it is your favorite.

2007: Think about an object that is important to you.

It could be something that was given to you, something you found, something that reminds you of a special person or place, or any item that is important to you.

Write an essay describing this object using details so that anyone reading your essay would be able to picture it and understand what makes it important to you.

Grade 11

2009: The school counselors are planning a series of panel discussions to address challenges facing teens. They are seeking student recommendations for topics.

Think about the challenges facing teenagers today. Identify what you think is the most serious challenge for teens in your school.

Write a persuasive essay identifying the teen challenge you think should be the first topic for the panel discussions. Provide specific examples and reasons to support your recommendations to the counselors.

2008: A graduate from your high school has made a large financial gift to your school and has requested that the money be used to improve the educational experience for students. This donor has also asked that students be able to recommend how the money should be used.

Think about how this financial gift should be used at your school. It could be used to expand the use of technology, add new courses, or improve the library or media center. Choose one of these options or one of your own.

Write a persuasive essay stating your recommendation. Provide supportive reasons to convince school officials why the money should be spent on your recommendation.

2007: The Junior Class at your school has decided to ask the school administration to consider granting a special privilege or opportunity to seniors next year.

Think about a privilege or opportunity you would like to have as a senior. It could be a late start or early dismissal class schedule, a class trip, a seniors-only lounge or locker area, or some other privilege or opportunity just for seniors.

Write a persuasive essay convincing the school administration to adopt your recommendation for a specific privilege or opportunity. Provide reasons to support your recommendation.